

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-25, 27-40, and 42-57 are pending. Claims 20-25, 38-40, and 53-55 were withdrawn by the outstanding Office Action. By the present amendment, Claims 3-6, 13, 15, 18, 19, 27-29, 34, 42-44, and 49 are amended; Claims 56 and 57 are added; and Claims 1, 2, 26, and 41 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the present amendment can be found in the originally filed specification, for example, from page 61, line 2 to page 64, line 18, in Figures 25-29B, and in the original claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4, 16-18, 26, 27, 35-37, 41, 42, and 50-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Aneja et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0051154, hereinafter “Aneja”); Claims 5, 28, and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Aneja in view of Sano (U.S. Patent 7,158,682); and Claims 6-15, 19, 29-34, and 44-49 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated as including allowable subject matter.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. However, since Applicants consider that Claims 4, 27, and 42, from which Claims 6-15, 19, 29-34, and 44-49 depend, define patentable subject matter, Claims 6-15, 19, 29-34, and 44-49 are maintained in dependent form at the present time.

Turning now to the outstanding rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as discussed below.

Amended Claim 3 recites:

A code conversion apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting a code sequence having a
JPEG2000 coding format and including code data and header

information that is progressively arranged with respect to one of resolution levels, layers, components and positions;

header information rewriting means for rewriting information related to one of the resolution levels, the layers, the components and the positions of the header information in the code sequence, so as to partially decode the code sequence that is input by said input means with respect to one of the resolution levels, the layers, the components and the positions; and

output means for outputting the code sequence, including the header information that is rewritten by said header information rewriting means, to a target object.

Amended independent Claims 4, 27, and 42, while directed to alternative embodiments, recite features similar to those discussed below with respect to Claim 3. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted, while the following is a discussion of Claim 3, the discussion applies to Claims 4, 27, and 42 as well.

Claim 3 is hereby amended to clarify that: (i) a code sequence that is input has a JPEG2000 coding format and includes code data and header information that is progressively arranged with respect to one of resolution levels, layers, components, and positions; (ii) information related to one of the resolution levels, the layers, the components, and the positions of the header information in the code sequence is rewritten so as to partially decode the code sequence that is input by said input means with respect to one of the resolution levels, the layers, the components, and the positions; and (iii) the code sequence including the header information that is rewritten is output to a target object. It is respectfully submitted that these features are fully supported by the original disclosure, and include no new matter.

Aneja describes a method and system for using single OSD pixmap across multiple video raster sizes by chaining OSD headers. Specifically, Aneja describes a digital video receiving system that includes a transport decoder 55 providing MPEG-compatible video audio and subpicture streams to an MPEG decoder 65.¹ Aneja additionally describes that the

¹ See Aneja, at paragraph [0024].

MPEG decoder 65 decodes and decompresses the MPEG-compatible packetized audio and video data from the transport decoder 55 and provides decompressed program representative pixel data to a display processor 70 for presentation on the display device 75.²

However, it is respectfully submitted that Aneja does not disclose or suggest “input means for inputting a code sequence having a JPEG2000 coding format and including code data and header information that is progressively arranged with respect to one of resolution levels, layers, components and positions; header information rewriting means for rewriting information related to one of the resolution levels, the layers, the components and the positions of the header information in the code sequence, so as to partially decode the code sequence that is input by said input means with respect to one of the resolution levels, the layers, the components and the positions; and output means for outputting the code sequence, including the header information that is rewritten by said header information rewriting means, to a target object,” as recited in amended Claim 3.

Instead, Aneja merely describes a method of rewriting a header within a code sequence having the MPEG code format. Thus, Aneja does not disclose or suggest the claimed “input means,” “header information rewriting means,” and “output means.”

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Aneja does not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 3. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection of independent Claims 3, 4, 27, and 42, and all claims dependent thereon, as anticipated by Aneja be withdrawn.

Turning now to the rejection of Claims 5, 28, and 43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Aneja in view of Sano, this rejection is also respectfully traversed.

Applicants note that Sano qualifies as prior art only under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as the present application filing date predates the publication of Sano. As Sano is §102(e) art, the

² See Aneja, at paragraph [0025].

obviousness rejection is deficient under 35 U.S.C. §103(c). Applicants state that the present application and Sano were, at the time the invention was made, owned or subject to an obligation of common assignment to Ricoh Company, Ltd. Accordingly, application of the Sano reference in this obviousness rejection is improper. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is traversed as Sano may not be applied as a basis for supporting a *prima facie* case of obviousness as outlined by 35 U.S.C. §103(c).

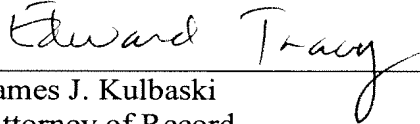
New Claims 56 and 57 are hereby added. New Claim 56 substantially recites the subject matter of original Claim 6, including original Claim 4 upon which original Claim 6 depended. New Claim 57 substantially recites the subject matter of original Claim 44, and original Claim 42 upon which original Claim 44 depended. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added. Further, as original Claims 6 and 44 were indicated as including allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 56 and 57 are allowable for at least the reasons discussed in the outstanding Office Action with respect to Claims 6 and 44.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edward Tracy", is written over a horizontal line.

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